

FOODBORNE DISEASE OUTBREAK

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** Occurrence of illness within a usually short, but variable, period of time (from a few hours to a few weeks) after consumption, among individuals who have consumed common foods.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Suspicion of a foodborne outbreak caused by toxins elaborated by bacterial growth in the food before consumption (e.g. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus*) or in the intestines (e.g. *Clostridium perfringens*); illnesses caused by bacterial infections with short incubation periods (e.g. *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus*); and a variety of illnesses caused by the contamination of food by microbial products accumulated in the food chain of fish.
- C. **OUTBREAK DEFINITION:** An incident in which two or more persons experience a similar illness after ingestion of a common food, and analysis of epidemiologic data implicates the food as the source of the illness.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES PRIORITY NOTIFICATION:** Report to the local or state health department within one (1) business day of the identification of a case or suspected case.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
A suggested format for a Foodborne Disease Questionnaire is on page 101.
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- ☐ Source investigation by LHD.
 - ☐ Specific intervention dependent upon etiologic agent.
 - ☐ Determine if case is outbreak-related and notify the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH:** 502-564-3261
- B. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND COSMETIC BRANCH:** 502-564-7181
- C. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH:** 502-564-3418

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. **FOODBORNE DISEASES**. In: Control of Communicable Disease Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000:202-212.
2. Pickering, LK, ed. 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000: See specific foodborne diseases.
3. Diagnosis and Management of Foodborne Illnesses: A Primer for Physicians. MMWR 2001; 50(No. RR-2): 1-67.
4. Surveillance for Foodborne-Disease Outbreaks – United States, 1988-1992. MMWR 1996, 45 (No. SS-5): 1-55.